

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing Amendment is respectfully requested. The Amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance and, therefore, is respectfully submitted to be appropriate under Rule 116. It is submitted that the Amendment does not raise any new issues and, thus, does not require any additional search by the Examiner. The issues presented by the amended claim 49 are the same issues presented by the currently pending claim 49, with the language the Examiner indicated as being indefinite, having been deleted.

By the present amendment, claim 49 is amended to eliminate an alleged indefiniteness therein.

Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance and action to that end is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objects to and rejects claims 40, 41, 43, 44, 46, and 49 for referring to a method. As noted above, the reference to the method is eliminated in the independent claim 49. It is respectfully submitted that claim 49 and claims 40, 41, 43, 44, 46 dependent on claim 49 are allowable as none of Mahoney, Anderson, Shiver, and Wagener discloses an inwardly directed thickening that forms with the gas injector a nozzle slot, as recited in claim 49.

Since Mahoney, Anderson, Shiver and Wagener fail to disclose each and every feature of independent Claim 49, Mahoney, Anderson, Shiver and Wagener do not anticipate or make obvious the present invention, as defined by said independent claim.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that none of Mahoney, Anderson, Shiver and Wagener anticipates or makes obvious the present invention as defined in Claim 49, and Claim 49 is patentable over the foregoing references.

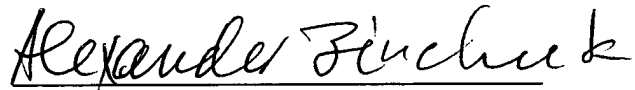
Claims 40-41, 43-44, and 46 depend on claim 49 and are respectfully submitted to be also allowable as being dependent on an allowable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alexander Zinchuk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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